

Meeting Outline

June 15, 2022 | Click [here](#) for online streaming, requests to comment, and committee information.

Public Utilities, Energy & Technology Interim Committee

1:15PM – 3:45PM

Anchor location for meeting: **House Room 20**, State Capitol Complex, Salt Lake City, Utah

Members of the public are invited to participate [online](#).

1. Committee Business

Background

- Call meeting to order
- Draft minutes of the May 18, 2022, meeting

Potential Action

- Approve draft minutes of the May 18, 2022, meeting

2. Utah Rural Energy Diversification and Innovation Application Update

Background

Under the American Rescue Plan, the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) allocated \$3 billion in supplemental funding to “build back better”. As part of that, \$1 billion was allocated for the Build Back Better Regional Challenge which aims to boost economic recovery from the pandemic and rebuild American communities.

The two-phase competition will ultimately award 20-30 regional coalitions \$25-\$100 million to implement three to eight projects that support an industry sector.

On December 13, the EDA announced 60 Phase 1 finalists of 529 applicants. Utah is one of those 60 finalists with the Utah Rural Energy Diversification and Innovation (U-REDI) program. In March 2022, the phase 2 application was submitted which outlined specific projects the money may be used for in Utah.

- [U.S. Economic Development Administration: American Rescue Plan Programs](#)
- [Build Back Better Regional Challenge](#)
- [Notice of Funding Opportunity – Build Back Better Regional Challenge](#)

Issues

- What is the program?
- What projects were proposed in Phase 2 of the application?
- What are next steps/when will Utah know if we are selected?

Presenters

- Matt Anderson, Acting Director, Utah Office of Energy Development
- Harry Hansen, Director of Communications, Utah Office of Energy Development

Potential Action

- Request additional information

3. Community Renewable Energy Program Update

Background

In 2019, the Utah Legislature passed HB 411 – Community Renewable Energy Act. The bill allows eligible local governments to procure 100% renewable electricity by 2030. In December 2019, 23 communities passed a qualifying resolution ensuring eligibility to participate in the public-private partnership with Rocky Mountain Power. Eligible governments will coordinate with Rocky Mountain Power to:

- procure new renewable energy resources; and
- connect those resources to the existing electric grid.

The Community Renewable Energy Agency is an interlocal government body with the board comprised of two board members per community. There are three subcommittees including:

- Program Design Committee: coordinate with RMP and bring recommendations on program design and utility agreements;
- Low-income Plan Committee: research, study, and consult with community members to develop options for communities to adopt in low-income plans; and
- Communications Committee: manage website, press releases, community outreach and education before roll-out.

This item is an update on the program and the status of the transition.

- [Utah 100 Communities](#)
- [HB 411 Community Renewable Energy Act](#)

Presenters

- Dan Dugan, Chair, Community Renewable Energy Agency Board

Potential Action

- Request additional information

4. Transmission – Addressing Future Needs

Background

In the May 18, 2021, PUET interim committee meeting, the committee heard from several stakeholders on transmission broadly. This item was in response to the Transmission Study that the Utah Office of Energy Development released. This item is a follow-up to the presentations last year to take a more granular look at transmission, particularly as it relates to addressing future needs as more new energy sources come on-line.

One example of an expanding transmission line is the Gateway South Project. The 416-mile transmission line was recently approved by the U.S Bureau of Land Management. The new line will connect wind farms in eastern Wyoming with customers in Utah and elsewhere across the West.

- [Utah Transmission Study: A Study of the Options and Benefits to Unlocking Utah's Resource Potential](#)
- [Gateway South Project](#)

Issues

- What is Utah's future transmission needs?
- How are transmission needs impacted as new energy sources come on-line?
- What is the status update on the Gateway South Project?

Presenters

- Matt Anderson, Acting Director, Utah Office of Energy Development
- Dick Garlish, Vice President and General Counsel, Rocky Mountain Power

Potential Action

- Request additional information

5. Regional Transmission Organizations – Opportunities and Challenges

Background

A regional transmission organization is typically an independent, non-profit organization that tries to ensure reliability and optimize supply and demand bids for wholesale electric power. They came into formation during the 1990s at the behest of various orders of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

There are nine RTOs in the United States all of which are mandated by FERC to ensure:

- reliable supplies of power;
- adequate transmission infrastructure; and
- competitive wholesale-prices of electricity.

RTOs do not own the power on the grid, but they manage it to ensure power gets to customers.

Issues

- What are independent system operators/regional transmission organizations?
- What came out of the Utah “State-led Market Options Study”?
- What are the opportunities/challenges?
- How are RTOs used in the West?
- How are they implemented in practice?

Presenters

- Matt Anderson, Acting Director, Utah Office of Energy Development
- Kathleen Staks, Partnership Director, Western Freedom
- Chris Hansen, Senator, Colorado Legislature
- Scott Bolton, Senior Vice President - Transmission Development, PacifiCorp
- Kara Fornstrom, Director – State Regulatory Policy, Southwest Power Pool
- Mike Ross, Senior Vice President -- External Affairs & Stakeholder Relations, Southwest Power Pool

Potential Action

- Request additional information

6. Other items/Adjourn

a. Field trip to Eureka - Update